438 178 however, accommodates a number of different activities.

In varying degrees, only three important branches of the home industry seem still to be alive: rushwork, spinning and weaving, and pottery making.

285 Native bulrush and reed furnish the material for the countrywide rushcraft. This work is performed by the men, who, with diversified techniques of plaiting and weaving, produce rush baskets and mats for various purposes. Ductile twigs and rods of willow, birch and hazel may also be used, especially for bigger orders, such as fencing.

286 Early in this century it was anticipated that competition from the textile industries would destroy the native craft of spinning and weaving. Nevertheless, the shortage in labor and raw materials brought about by the two world wars and the present scarcity of manufactured goods have served

[462] to prolong the life of this craft. Spinning and weaving have long been an exclusively female occupation. The usual steps are followed by the women in the processing of hemp and flax (rarely nettle): gathering, steeping, rinsing, drying, dressing and combing, followed by spinning on a distaff (guzsaly) or on a spinning wheel (rokka). The thread is further processed before being woven on the loom. Implements used in this home industry, the distaffs, spinning wheels, looms and swingles, are often hand-made.

∞ The rich abundance of potter's clay throughout the Danubean basin,